



REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1940

Presented to the

SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

by

C. S. E. WRIGHT, M. B., B. CH., D. P. H

1st August, 1941.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH'S REPORT 1940-1941

TO THE SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mrs. Ward and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1940, on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Spilsby Rural District, including the area relating to the Old Sibsey Rural District.

The Minister of Health has issued an order, that while he does not wish the annual reports to be discontinued during the period of the war, he will be satisfied with its curtailment, and limitation to a record of important events and alterations.

The year in question was noteworthy to the Spilsby Rural District owing to the death in July of the late Dr. F. J. Walker who for 52 years had been Medical Officer of Health, and had the confidence and esteem of every member of your Council. Since his death I have held the appointment on a temporary basis.

The report covers a period of twelve months of war during which owing to various factors, such as "black-out" conditions, a gradual increase in the severity of Rationing and the nervous strain put on the whole population by the indiscriminate bombing of Civilians etc., the health of the community might have been expected to suffer considerably; but, I am happy to say such has not been the case. During the whole year the general health of the District has been good, and the somewhat severe rationing has shown, up to now, no signs of having had an adverse effect on the fitness or stamina of the people; in point of fact there is no doubt that many people are actually the better for it.

1. Vital Statistics

The figures in this report are compiled from the returns which I receive monthly from the local Registrars of Births and Deaths.

Area. The area remains the same, namely 146,030 acres in 69 parishes and the population has been estimated at 22,620. (There has been a large and varying number of non-civilians quartered in the district during a considerable part of the year and with them also a proportion of women and children. Non-civilians are not included in these statistics)

The Rateable Value is £88,397 and £350:17:2: represents the product of a penny rate.

The number of inhabited houses is 7,155.

The Births were 349 - 189 males and 160 females. In the second half of the year a considerable number of expectant mothers went away to supposedly safer areas for their confinement and there has been an increasing use also of the facilities at the County Infirmary

at Louth. The number represents a rate per thousand of 15.47. The Birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1940 was 14.6 per thousand.

The Deaths were 288 representing a death rate of 12.3 per 1,000 of the population. Of the 288 deaths more than half were in people of over 70 years of age. The death-rate for England and Wales was 14.3.

No death was registered as due to any puerperal cause. The death of infants under one year of age numbered 20 giving a rate per 1,000 births of 57.14. There were 40 deaths caused by Cancer and 78 attributed directly to diseases of the Heart. Tuberculosis claimed 13 victims, about the average for the past five years. There were no deaths due to Suicide.

2. General Provision of Health Service.

The Staff in 1940 was unchanged; but the war, though it caused a diminution of their duties in some directions, e.g., the building of Council Houses and of Bungalows for the aged, found them none the less busy. Mr. W. Bailey, our Chief Sanitary Officer, became responsible for the Auxiliary Fire Service, Salvage duties, and the surveying and First-Aid repair of all damage to house property done by Enemy Action. Mr. G. Taylor as Chief Executive Officer to the A.R.P. Scheme for the area, carried out this difficult and thankless task to the satisfaction of everyone; his duties often keeping him on duty by night as well as by day. Mr. Forder and Mr. Bolt have also co-operated to the full in the A.R.P. Scheme. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking them all for the work they have done.

Laboratory Examinations are carried out by the County Council at the Technical College, Lincoln, and by the Clinical Research Association in London. Hospitals, Clinics and Ambulances are unchanged. Infectious diseases are sent when necessary, either to the Isolation Hospital, Osgodby, or the Grimsby Corporation Hospital, Scarthoe.

Midwifery and Maternity Services. The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act for the whole of Lindsey.

3. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply - Fen Scheme.

This water scheme has provided a supply of water that has been satisfactory both in amount and purity throughout the year.

On December 31st, 1940, in the parishes within the area of the Council's Fen Water Scheme, namely, East Keal, West Keal, Stickford, West Fen, Midville, New Leake, Eastville, Little Steeping, Thorpe, Halton, Toynton All Saints, Toynton St. Peter and Friskney, there were 835 dwelling houses connected to the water mains, 195 metered water supplies and 157 special supplies, the latter being chiefly to fields.

The inflow at the Reservoir is 5,250 gallons per hour, which is equivalent to 126,000 gallons per 24 hours. The consumption at the end of 1940 was 49,500 gallons per day, leaving an

available surplus of 76,500 gallons per day.

The number of dwelling houses connected to the Council's water supply represents 84% of the inhabitable houses on the line of the main.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular, W.2. every assistance and facility have been given by the Council to the Military Authorities for the supply of water where the Service authorities are in occupation.

Samples taken at Wainfleet on June 15th on water supplied by the Wainfleet Water Company again proved highly unsatisfactory. On October 24th I advised the Council in writing as to the great potential danger of this supply and urged that the promised ministerial inquiry be held as soon as possible. I further strongly advised that not only Wainfleet All Saints and Wainfleet St. Mary, but also Thorpe and Croft Parishes be supplied from the Fen Water Scheme.

Coastal Water Scheme

It is much to be regretted that I cannot give such a satisfactory report with regard to the Coastal water Scheme. As you, Gentlemen, are only too well aware, difficulties and delays have dogged the progress of this scheme from the beginning. We are not yet by any means at the end of our troubles with the Mumby Bore Hole.

All trunk mains were laid and completed in the parishes of Addlethorpe, Chapel St. Leonards, Hogsthorpe, Huttoft, Ingoldmells and Mumby.

The length of the water mains laid was: -

8"	7"	6"	5"	4"	3"
5649 yds	5995 yds	6767 yds	6118 yds	15679 yds	8178 yds

All owners and tenants were canvassed on the line of water mains. Persons undertaking to obtain Council's water are provided with a free service connection up to a maximum distance of 30ft from the mains to the boundary of the consumers premises.

The following is a summary of the canvass: -

	Dwelling Houses	Grass Fields	Workshops, Schools, Places of Worship.	Farms.	Camping Grounds & Caravans
Addlethorpe	37	43	4	10	-
Anderby	63	27	2	13	5
Chapel St. Leonards	280	40	6	13	14
Hogsthorpe	130	15	6	5	-
Huttoft	81	35	5	13	11
Ingoldmells	247	52	10	11	79
Mumby	48	38	5	9	1

Operations are proceeding with regard to remedial works at the Mumby Bore Hole.

Drainage and Sewerage

Due to the billeting of the Service authorities in the villages your Officers have frequently been requested to advise on matters of drainage, where sewage works are non-existent.

The quartering of troops in billets normally occupied by a small family, exceeded in numerous cases by four times the previous number, resulted in many complaints from the neighbouring tenants. Requests from the Military Officers for advice on improvements of drainage have always been given.

Council's sewerage works are situated at Burgh, Spilsby and Wainfleet.

Scavenging

Scavenging contractors under agreement with the Council are employed at Spilsby, Burgh, Wainfleet All Saints, Hogsthorpe, Chapel St. Leonards, Ingoldmells and Anderby.

4. HOUSING

Council Houses

The Council did not proceed during the year with the erection of any Council houses, or bungalows for aged persons.

There are 317 Council houses in the Spilsby Rural District.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

No applications were received.

REPAIR OF WAR DAMAGE - Housing Accommodation.

The Council are responsible for supervising and carrying out the necessary repairs to housing accommodation rendered unfit for human habitation by air bombardment or other war action.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor proceeded with the organisation for the emergency repair of buildings damaged by enemy action wherever damage has occurred; the work has been done expeditiously and with the minimum of inconvenience to the tenants.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Cowsheds and Dairies

Within reason, every endeavour has been made to complete the works necessary at the cowsheds and dairies which do not conform with the requirements.

Twenty-six cowsheds and sixteen dairies have had improvements completed during the year.

Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection.

Normal slaughtering of animals does not take place in the slaughter houses in the Spilsby Rural District. All animals previously slaughtered in the District are now sent to the Government Slaughter House depots at Skegness and Horncastle.

There are occasions when emergency slaughtering has had to take place particularly as the result of enemy action, and in all cases your Officers have co-operated with the local officers of the Ministry of Food. Quick notification is essential in order that the best possible use may be made of the carcasses or portions of carcasses and offals for human consumption.

It has not been found necessary to take proceedings for any offences under the Public Health Act or Public Health Meat Regulations.

6. PREVALENCE OF DISEASE

Considering that 1940 was a year of war with large numbers of women and children and non-civilians coming into the district, the number of infectious diseases that were notified was very satisfactory.

The year began with a very widespread invasion of German Measles, part of a pandemic that covered not only the British Isles but a large part of Europe as well. In many places it got quite out of control, and all attempts at segregation were given up. Not only children were affected but people of all ages and many who had had the disease previously. It is not, fortunately, a serious disease.

In August a Measles (Rubella) epidemic started in the south of the district and gradually spread. It was still very active in many places at the end of the year. Measles is now a notifiable disease and 608 cases were reported in the area in 1940 but undoubtedly many more cases were not seen by Medical Practitioners. Many of the cases were of a severe type, but there were few complications, and it is very satisfactory to report that not a single death was attributed to this disease.

Thirty-five cases of Scarlet fever were reported, a larger number than the average for the past five years. Few of the cases had any relation to each other, they were spread over the whole of the Rural District and in ten different months of the year. There were no deaths.

Only three cases of Diphtheria were reported, a very small number compared to the average of past years. They all recovered.

There were seven cases of Erysipelas notified. This disease which used to be such a scourge to the community is now comparatively uncommon and rarely fatal.

There were 27 cases of Tuberculosis notified, a larger number than the average for the past five years. Of the thirteen deaths due to this disease eight (four of each sex) were due to the Pulmonary type.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases: -

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Smallpox	0	0
Scarlet Fever	35	0
Diphtheria	3	0
Enteric Fever	2	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0
Erysipelas	7	0
Measles	608	0
Whooping Cough	1	0
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0
Tuberculosis	27	13
Pneumonia	19	10

There was no outbreak of disease due to food poisoning reported during the year under consideration.

7. COLLECTION and UTILISATION OF WASTE and DORMANT MATERIALS

The reduction in the importation of raw materials was of such a serious nature that it was a matter of National Importance for all Local Authorities to intensify or promote Salvage Schemes for the re-utilisation of all waste or dormant materials.

Following various meetings Mrs. B.K. Lindsey, representative of the W.V.S., kindly co-operated with the organisation of the Scheme, which has proved a success. The work and transport has been provided voluntarily by the W.V.S., British Legion, and Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association.

Commencing on the 5th July 1940, the weight of paper collected to the end of the year was 49 tons, 15 cwt. 3 qrs., resulting in an amount of £258: 3: 3:.

8. AUXILIARY FIRE SERVICE

Having regard to the vulnerability of the District and possible danger and damage to personnel and property, it was necessary that the Council should be prepared for all eventualities.

This entailed the formation of A.F.S. units at suitable places in the District; the selection of proper premises for trailer pumps, vehicles, and miscellaneous stores; the training and formation of pump crews, details re water supplies etc.

Your Chief Sanitary Officer and Surveyor acted as co-ordinating officer, and partly due to his efforts, slowly but surely there has been built up in the Spilsby Rural District A.F.S. Stations with appliances and trained crews. Without fire parties

there are seventy-eight trained A.F.S. volunteers.


Auxiliary fire service stations with trailer pumps have been set up at Sibsey, Wainfleet, Hogsthorpe (Coastal Service) and Spilsby and a station without pump at Burgh-le-Marsh.

I have the honour to be, Mrs.Ward and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C.S. ERIC WRIGHT.

Medical Officer of Health.



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APPENDIX No.1

The following tables relate to the whole of the Spilsby Rural District.

The following shows some of the work done by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year throughout the whole of the Rural District.

<u>Common Lodging Houses</u>	(No. registered under byelaws.	-
	(No. of inspections made.	-
	(No. of contraventions of byelaws.	-
	(No. of contraventions remedied.	-
<u>Canal Boats used as Dwelling Houses</u>	(No. registered under acts.	-
	(No. of inspections	-
	(No. of contraventions of regulations	-
	(No. of contraventions remedied.	-
<u>Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans &c</u>	(No. inspected during year	5
	(No. of nuisances therefrom abated.	1
	(No. removed from district	Not known
<u>Bakehouses</u>	(No. in district	41
	(No. of underground bakehouses	-
	(No. of Inspections	63
	(Contraventions of Factory Acts	-
	(Defects remedied.	-
<u>Slaughter-houses</u>	(No. on Register	31
	(No. of Inspections	21
	(Contraventions of by-laws	-
	(Defects remedied	-
<u>Cowsheds</u>	(No. on register	873
	(No. of Inspections	210
	(Contraventions of regulations	31
	(Contraventions remedied	26
	(No. of milch cows in district	... 3,000 approx:
<u>Dairies and Milk Shops</u>	(No. on register	893
	(No. of Inspections	49
	(Contraventions of regulations	18
	(Contraventions remedied	16
	(Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	No.
<u>Offensive Trades</u>	(No. of premises in district	-
	(No. of Inspections	-
	(Contravention of bye-laws	-
	(Contraventions remedied	-
<u>Shops Act 1934</u>	(No. of shops inspected	-
	(Additional heating or ventilation	-
	(Additional sanitary conveniences	-

Unsound Food

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed (if known)					
Number inspected					
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u> Whole carcasses condemned Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis					
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis					

<u>Wells</u>	{ New sunk	10
	{ Cleansed, repaired	2
	{ Closed as polluted	-

(Area supplied: Wainfleet All Saints,
Wainfleet St. Mary, Croft,
Friskney, Spilsby, Hundleby,
Raithby, Burgh, Orby, Welton,
Gunby, Candlesby, Bilsby,
Markby, Well, Sibsey, Frithville,
Carrington, West Fen, Toynton
All Saints, Toynton St. Peter,
Halton Holegate, Little
Steeping, Thorpe S. Peter. East
Keal, West Keal, Stickford,
Stickney, New Leake, Eastville,
Midville, Old Bolingbroke,
Langton, Mavis Enderby.

Water Supply

Percentage of
Houses supplied

Fen Water Scheme...84%
comprising parishes of Friskne
West Fen, Toynton All Saints,
Halton Holegate, L. Steeping,
Toynton St. Peter

Thorpe St. Peter, East Keal, West Keal,
Stickford, Stickney, New Leake,
Eastville, Midville.

Percentage of houses supplied at Burgh.....						38%
"	"	"	"	"	Orby.....	23%
"	"	"	"	"	Gunby.....	20%
"	"	"	"	"	Welton....	44%
"	"	"	"	"	Croft.....	15%

Water
Supply
(continued)

Percentage of houses in the other parishes not obtainable at the present time.

(New cisterns provided -
(Cisterns cleansed, repaired,
covered etc. 2

Number of samples obtained for analysis
(a) from wells 3
(b) from public supply 3

Any insufficiency and where Langrивille
Thornton-le-Fen

<u>Closets</u>	(No. of houses with privy vaults	3130
	(No. of houses with pail closets	2399
	(No. of pails substituted for vaults	10
	(No. of pail closets repaired	7
	(No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles	4
	(No. of houses with water closets	1602
	(No. of water closets repaired	1
	(Drains examined, tested, exposed &c	88
	(Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped	15
	(Waste pipes, rainwater pipes disconnected	-
<u>Drains</u>	(New soil pipes or vent shafts fixed	32
	(Existing soil pipes or vent shafts repaired	-
	(Drains reconstructed	15
	(New lengths of sewer laid	85 yds
<u>Sewers</u>		Sibsey
<u>Tanks</u>	(Alterations to sewage disposal works	-
<u>Filter</u>	(Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works	-
<u>Beds etc</u>	(or complaints as to smells	-
<u>Cess-Pools</u>	(Cesspools rendered impervious	1
	(" emptied, cleansed &c	5
	(" abolished	-

<u>Disinfection</u>	(Rooms disinfected	
	(a) ordinary infectious disease	39
	(b) tuberculosis	3
	Rooms stripped and cleansed	-
	Articles disinfected or destroyed	-
	(a) ordinary infectious disease	-
	(b) tuberculosis	-

<u>House</u> <u>Refuse</u>	(No. of covered ashpits	3800
	(No. of uncovered ashpits	
	(No. of bins substituted for ashpits	8
	(No. of Houses using bins	3322
	(Public Scavenger at Spilsby, Wainfleet All Saints, Burgh, Chapel St, Leonards, Hogsthorpe, Anderby, and Ingoldmells	
	(How frequently is refuse removed from each house	
	(No. of complaints of non-removal	8
	(Method of final disposal	Controlled tipping
	(Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory?	Yes
	(Total Number of Nuisances during year: -	
<u>Nuisances</u>	(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	67
	(2) Reported to Council (Statutory Notices)	--
<u>Details of</u> <u>Nuisances</u> <u>abated</u>		<u>Informal Action</u>
	(Overcrowding	7
	(Smoke	2
	(Accumulation of Refuse	13
	(Foul ditches, ponds & stagnant water	13
	(Foul pigs and other animals	6
	(Dampness	21
	(Yards re-paved or repaired	-
	(Other nuisances	5

APPENDIX 11

Total No. of new houses erected during the year	14
(1) by the Local Authority	-
(2) by other Local Authorities	-
(3) by other bodies or persons	14

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	92
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	167
(2) (a) No. of dwelling houses (included under Sub- head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	25
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	43
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	-
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	25

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice

Number of Defective Dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....78

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 36 of the Housing Act.,1936: -

(1) No.of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. -

(2) No.of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
(a) by owners 3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners -

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(2) No.of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: -
(a) by owners 1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners -

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936: -

(1) No.of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(2) No.of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders -

(3) No.of dwelling houses subject to undertakings -

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act. ,1936

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made. -

(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. -

Housing Act, 1936 - Part 4 - Overcrowding

(a) (1) No.of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 33
(2) No.of families dwelling therein 33
(3) No.of persons dwelling therein 169

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year -

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year 7
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 33

(d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved -

